

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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*MEETING MINUTES APRIL 22, 2015*



THE NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION IS AN ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF RAILROADS SERVING THE GREAT STATE OF NEW JERSEY. THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS WHICH FACE SHORT LINE RAILROADS AND TO FIND MEANS OF MITIGATING PROBLEMS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND COOPERATION.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM](http://WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM)**

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd., Mount Laurel, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>June 4, 2015</b>	<b>Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC</b>
<b>June 9-11, 2015</b>	<b>Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting, Roanoke, VA</b>
<b>October 14-16, 2015</b>	<b>NEARS Meeting, Philadelphia, PA</b>
<b>October 18-20, 2015</b>	<b>ASLRRRA Eastern Region Meeting, Erie, PA</b>

## MEETING ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Bob Bailey	Munro Associates	201-232-0389
Paul Buzby	Seashore Lines	215-499-3275
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern	717-319-6870
Rodney Oglesby	CSX	610-842-2116
Bill Goetz	CSX	215-279-1128
Jim Pfeiffer	SMS Rail	610-739-3729
Jim Jordie	Stella Jones	800-272-8437
Pat Abrusi	RCCSJ Inc.	856-423-2220
Taimur Shamali	NJDOT	609-530-3715
John K. Fiorilla	Capehart & Scatchard	856-914-2054
GeorgeAnne Tutunjian	Orgo-Thermit	732-657-5781
Tony Macrie	Seashore Lines	609-602-1264
Steve Sullivan	R.L. Banks & Associates	703-997-4294
Paul Mulligan	Seashore Lines	732-770-7186
John McLaughlin	R.L. Banks & Associates	856-938-4246
Michael Allen	NJ Operation Lifesaver	609-929-6421

## MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was held at the Tropicana Resort Hotel, Casino, and Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ during the annual TransAction Conference. The meeting was abbreviated because it was held before the day's sessions began at 9:15 a.m.

NJSLRRA President Bob Bailey called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Since April 22 is Bob's birthday, everyone surprised him by singing "Happy Birthday." This was followed by a safety briefing and a round of introductions.

### **1. NJDOT rail grants.**

Taimur Shamali reported that the nine rail grants for FY 2014 totaled \$20,026,534.20. For FY 2015, the grant total will only be in the \$8-9 million dollar range. Taimur is closing out old projects to get above \$8M this year.

Applications for FY 2015 grants should be submitted electronically via NJDOT's System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). These should be submitted from April 20, 2015 through June 5, 2015.

### **2. Grade crossing update (Michael Allen, NJ Operation Lifesaver).**

Michael Allen announced that Neil Ferrone of Conrail and Melanie Boyer of the NYSW have been added to the NJ Operation Lifesaver Board.

The new ENS signs should be installed at grade crossings by September 1, 2015. ENS numbers on signal bungalows may remain in place.

Railroads will have one year to get the crossings listed properly.

### **3. Review of CSX Short Line Workshop at Amelia Island, FL on March 1-3, 2015.**

Although the weather was unseasonably cold and windy, the attendees thought it was a very good workshop. There were a lot of people there; the breakout sessions were good.

### **4. Review of ASLRRA Convention in Orlando, FL on March 28-31, 2015.**

About 1,700 people attended this year's Convention. Everyone enjoyed the Convention and the number of breakout sessions. The Convention had a record number of exhibit booths.

### **5. Current status of federal and NJ rail-related legislation.**

Kel MacKavanagh said that there are still 34 bills in Congress which have 'railroad' somewhere in their language.

H.R. 721, the short line tax credit bill, has 140 co-sponsors in the House; Rep. Albio Sires is the only NJ co-sponsor at the moment.

The companion bill in the Senate, S. 637, has 16 co-sponsors; none are from NJ; both senators from NY are co-sponsors.

Senator Cory Booker has introduced S. 797, the *Railroad Infrastructure Financing Improvement Act*. This amends the 4R Act from 1976.

The RAILS Act (H.R. 1405), formally known as the *Reassuring Adequate Investment in Lifesaving Systems Act*, was introduced by Rep. Dan Lipinski of Illinois. This bill revises the railroad safety technology grants program. All six of the bill's co-sponsors are from Illinois.

In New Jersey, Senator Loretta Weinberg is planning to introduce a bill requiring railroads transporting crude oil in the state to pay a total of \$10 million dollars annually to the State Office of Emergency Management. This money would be used for state aid to municipalities for use by local government emergency responders.

Senator Weinberg is also preparing to introduce a bill which would require the owner or operator of a high hazard train to submit a discharge response, cleanup, and contingency plan to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The bill would also require the railroad to offer training to first responders along the travel routes of the trains and information on the routes and volumes of these trains to the extent that this information does not conflict with federal law.

The bill defines a "high hazard train" as any locomotive transporting 100,000 gallons or more of petroleum or petroleum products or 20,000 gallons or more of hazardous substances other than petroleum or petroleum products.

There has been no further action in New Jersey on Assembly Bill A. 842 which would permit cities of the first class to operate weigh stations and to inspect vehicles and railroad cars transporting hazardous materials within their jurisdiction.

Bill Goetz of CSX described how his railroad is working with first responders and conducting table top exercises.

He also said that the public perceives ugly railroad bridges as "unsafe."

Bill is retiring from CSX on April 30 after a long railroad career with Conrail and CSX. We thank him for all that he has done for the railroad industry and wish him well in his retirement.

Bill Goetz introduced Rodney Oglesby; Rodney is Bill's successor. We look forward to working with him.

## **6. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill on June 4, 2015.**

Members were urged to attend Railroad Day on Capitol Hill. New Jersey always has a strong representation. Although we will be asking for support for the renewal of the short line tax credit, we were told to expect questions about the movement of crude oil by rail from members of Congress and their staffs.

## **7. Member reports.**

### **a. Norfolk Southern.**

Mike Fesen reported that Tom Washbon is retiring at the end of April. Tom has been in Industrial Development with NS and formerly, with Conrail. We will miss him at our NJSLRRA meetings and also wish him well in his retirement.

Mike also said that Jennifer Cox is doing marketing for NS.

### **b. CSX.**

Bill Goetz advised us that Len Kellermann, who has been in charge of CSX's short line program for a number of years, is also retiring on April 30. We wish Len well, too, and appreciate all that he has done for the short lines in New Jersey and elsewhere.

### **c. FRA.**

The FRA has just announced new rules about the transportation of crude oil by rail.

### **d. John K. Fiorilla (Capehart & Scatchard).**

John Fiorilla stated that a railroad selling property still has to get approval from the state commission. They now want this for sales and leases. They may also want to know the book value of the property. All of this goes back to when railroads were giving away property.

## **8. New business.**

Following up on Bill Goetz's remarks, Bob Bailey said that the railroads need to educate the public; the petroleum industry on the East Coast is competing with the same industry on the Gulf Coast.

Regarding training, Bob said that it is a big deal for firefighters to go out of the county. There may also be problems when fire hydrant fittings don't match their hoses.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Association will be on **Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.** The meeting will be in the training room at the rear of the first floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Kel MacKavanagh  
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609-472-8748 (cell)

